

DT1.3.3 EXCHANGE ON THE FABLABNET VALUE PROPOSITION

Report by PP2

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Advantages of networks

During our thematic meeting in Budapest on the 30th of March 2017 we discussed and reflected on the joint value proposition for the network FabLabNet. Before we summarize the individual advantages that were named by the partners, we will have a look at some general benefits that can be gained out of networks.

First of all networks are a very good pool to get in touch with new initiatives or persons from your field of interest. Partners can introduce their own skills and competences into the network. Therefore one of the main advantages of networks is sharing knowledge and experience, but also building new knowledge together within the network. Diverse partners with different backgrounds can encourage each other to address new target groups and new stakeholders. Depending on the structure also legal and economic risks can be reduced, when partners share tools or licences and place joined orders to reduce costs. On a general level networks help to pursue a common interest and increase the visibility of a certain topic within the society.



1 General advantages of networks



Fab Lab networks on different levels - global, transnational, national

Networks can be established on different levels and structures. Additional to that those kinds of networks have various goals. An example for a network of Fab Labs on a global scale is the Fab Foundation[1]. It was founded in 2009 to facilitate and support the growth of a Fab Labs worldwide. The Fab Foundation provides access to tools, knowledge and financial means with the goal to educate, innovate and invent by using technology and digital fabrication. Members of the network can for example benefit of a shared education software license.

On transnational levels there are several existing networks for Fab Labs that are similar to FabLabNet: FABLAT[2] is a Latin American network. It aims to join forces between countries and entrepreneurs and wants to establish a continental network of laboratories in South America. The partners within the network are sharing projects and initiatives and try to adapt them to their specific local realities.

FABLABASIA [3] wants to increase Fab Labs in Asia and tries to improve the Fab Lab technology in this area. They also promote collaborations among Asian Labs as well as the common use of local Asian materials in Fab Labs.

The BENELUXE FAB LAB FOUNDATION[4] is spreading the concept of Fab Labs in the Benelux area. A main goal of this network is to foster Fab Lab communities and related initiatives. Periodically a “fabtable” is organized, where labs of this area can meet and discuss items of interest. As a network of experts on Fab Labs and digital fabrication, they also provide answers to common question form the public on this topic.

The VERBUND OFFENER WERKSTÄTTEN[5] in Germany is a good example for a national network. One of their goals is to raise awareness for open workshops in the society and encourage people to start building or fixing things on their own. They organize annually meetings for the members and try to foster the knowledge exchange in the network.

As we try to establish FabLabNet as transnational network in Central Europe within the project, we have similar goals and pursue similar objectives like some of the listed translational ones named before: foster collaboration and knowledge exchange between the partners and generally raise awareness about digital fabrication in the society to have a bigger impact in our local environment.

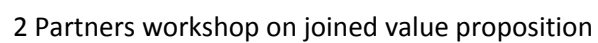


Workshop Budapest: outcomes

During the thematic meeting in Budapest we asked the partners to write down two topics they can contribute to the network and two that they wish to get out of the network.

In a next step we structured the outcomes, matched them and found four main categories that those topics fit in: Network, knowledge exchange, project realisation and public awareness.

The most important value of a network like FabLabNet is the knowledge exchange between the partners. They want to learn from each other's best practices and see, if they can adapt them to their local structures. But being a part of the network itself, making new contacts and having good relations with other Fab Labs on a transnational level was also named as an important benefit as well as cooperation's on future projects. Besides that the partners hope to increase the visibility of Fab Labs within the society as a network.





Benefits that the partners would like to gain from the network			
Network	Knowledge exchange	Project realisation	Public awareness
networking contacts	machine experience	collaboration on complex projects	create a new common ground where Fab Labs meet entrepreneurs & business in a new way
create a European Fab Lab and Maker Platform	NGO, academic, business filed knowhow of how running their Fab Lab	make high quality peer to peer collaboration research process	learn how to reach higher ranking stakeholder
approach and/or include people into our activities	new activities for makers		
establishing links to new institutions and communities	access a new set of tools that helps to foster innovation		
	learn how to become more financially viable		
	learn how to reach higher ranking stakeholder		
	how to make Fab Labs profitable		
	shared knowledge		
	learn from others		
	original ideas		
	use other machines		
	how to engage communities		
	sharing good practices		
	experience		
	instructions		



	inspiration		
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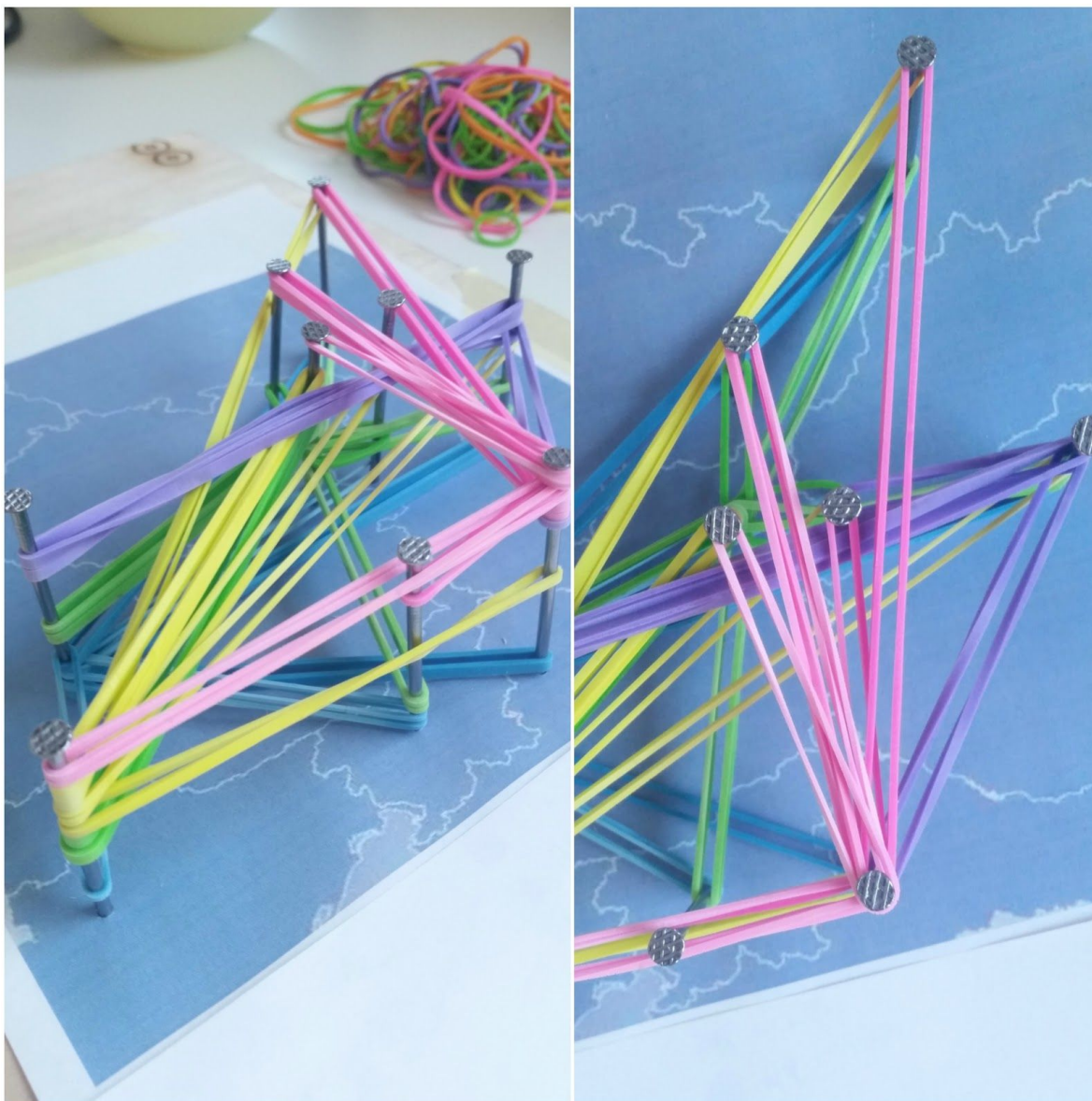
Knowhow that the partners can contribute to the network			
Network	Knowledge exchange	Project realisation	Public awareness
cooperation with professional communities (IoT, robotika.sk,...)	scientific and statistical approach to technology	product development	General public, curiosity towards Fab Lab
cooperation's to research institutes	social impact experience	experience on building new products (physical goods) companies	
providing SME's collaboration & perspective to Fab Lab strategy	educational example	Production capacity	
working in a community of opportunities	sharing of high tech practices and facilities	matching SME's needs for innovation with maker's solutions	
	educational programs approved by government (local) authorities		
	peer to peer education on 3D scanning		
	knowledge on how to create a makerton		
	contribution with socially engaged projects		
	contribution with training and education projects		
	experience with machines		



	knowledge about financial management of a self-sustainable Fab Lab		
	providing SME's collaboration & perspective to Fab Lab strategy		
	finding a balance between companies, supporters, communities		
	experience		
	best practices		
	instructions		
	inspiration		
	experience in building a community		

Recap Workshop in Bratislava

During the second thematic meeting in Bratislava we had a second workshop on the value that is added for every single partner by the network. The outcome is collected in the annex. The goal of the workshop was to show how the partners want to connect and exchange what kind of knowledge within the network.





Outcomes and Summary

When we compare the outcomes of the workshops with the strategies of already established transnational networks we see similarities. Getting inspired by others from your field and exchange knowledge is a prior value for the partners. They wish to establish vivid contacts with different Labs to gain new knowledge from others best practices about technical issues and educational or community building strategies. The more diverse the network partners, the more diverse skills and competences come together and this can also be seen in the list of things that the current partners want to contribute to the network. We also see a balance between the topics that partners can contribute to the network and want to get out of it. This means that the knowledge within the network is already now meeting many needs of the partners.

After we mapped the theoretical part of networks and the needs of partners when it comes to an added value of being a part of a network like ours, in a next step we need to figure what kind of structures we need to establish for a sustainable network that will open up to other fab labs and makerspaces after the end of the project. Therefore we need to get in touch and reach out to other transnational networks and collect some best practices from them. This deliverable and the participation at the Fab14 in France 2018 can be used as a baseline for the Joint Mission Statement due in the 5th periode of the project.

- [1] <http://www.fabfoundation.org/>
- [2] <https://www.fablabs.io/organizations/fab-lat>
- [3] <http://fablabasia.net/what-is-fablab-asia-network/>
- [4] <http://fablab.nl/wat-is-fablab/benelux-fablab-foundation-association/?lang=en>
- [5] <http://www.offene-werkstaetten.org/>

Annex

In the Annex we collected the follow up workshop outcomes from the project meeting in Bratislava where we collected the direct benefits that partners see in a peer to peer exchange.

PP1-IT

... like to gain from the network FabLabNet:

1. Benefit	PP7-SI CONNECTION TO CULTURAL AND CREATIVE SECTOR
2. Benefit	PP10-DE Hackerthon, Makerton experience
3. Benefit	PP9-HR Community building experience
4. Benefit	PP9-HR Social impact experience
5. Benefit	PP8-SK Connections to robotic communities
6. Benefit	PP2-AT Educational experience
7. Benefit	PP2-AT Fab Lab Management practices
8. Benefit	PP2-AT Machine experience

PP7-SI
Social impact experience

PP2-AT

... like to gain from the network FabLabNet:

1. Benefit	PP7-SI NETWORKING	national Fab Lab Network
2. Benefit	EUROPLANNING PP1-IT	
3. Benefit	PP9-HR Educational experience	new pop up workshop ideas
4. Benefit	PP10-DE Educational experience	
5. Benefit	PP10-DE Hackerthon, Makerton experience	phython Led WS
6. Benefit	PP8-SK Connections to robotic communities	
7. Benefit	PP1-IT Makerbot Educational experience	
8. Benefit		

PP3-HU

... like to gain from the network FabLabNet:

1. Benefit	PP1-IT Educational experience
2. Benefit	PP10-DE Hackerthon, Makerton experience
3. Benefit	PP5-CZ Product development experience
4. Benefit	PP5-CZ
5. Benefit	PP2-AT Event management experience
6. Benefit	PP2-AT Fab Lab Management practices
7. Benefit	PP8-SK Educational experience
8. Benefit	PP7-SI Social impact experience

PP5-CZ

... like to gain from the network FabLabNet:

1. Bene	pp9-HR Event management experience
2. Bene	PP7-SI Product development experience
3. Bene	PP10-DE Hackerthon, Makerton experience
4. Ber	PP7-SI <i>NETWORKING</i>
5. Benetr	PP2-AT Educational experience
6. Benetr	PP10-DE Educational experience
7. Ben	PP9-HR Educational experience
8. Bel	pp9-HR Community building experience

PP6-PL

... like to gain from the network FabLabNet:

1. Benefit	PP10-DE Fab Lab Management practices
2. Benefit	PP1-IT Event management experience
3. Benefit	PP2-AT Connections to research institutes
4.	PP2-AT Fab Lab Management practices
5. Benefit	PP9-HR Social impact experience
6.	PP7-SI NETWORKING
7. Benefit	
8. Benefit	

PP7-SI

... like to gain from the network FabLabNet:

1. Benefit	PP10-D Hackerthon, Makerton experience
2. Benefit	PP2-AT Event management experience
3. Benefit	PP6-PL Production capacity
4. Benefit	PP9-HR Social impact experience
5. Benefit	PP10-DE Machine experience
6. Benefit	PP2-AT Educational experience
7. Benefit	PP5-CZ Community building experience
	PP8-SK Connections to robotic communities

PP8-SK

... like to gain from the network FabLabNet:

1. Benefit	PP2-AT Fab Lab Management practices	PP5-CZ Fab Lab Management practice	PP10-DE Fab Lab Mana
2. Benefit	PP3-HU Experience with SME's		
3. Benef	PP6-PL Connections to policy makers		
4. Benef	PP1-IT Educational experience		
5. Benefit	PP10-DE Connections to robotic communities		
6. Benefit	PP9-HR Educational experience	PP10-DE Educational experience	
7. Benefit	PP7-SI Social impact experience		
8. Benefit			

PP9-HR

... like to gain from the network FabLabNet:

1. Benefit	PP7-SI NETWORKING
2. Benefit	EUROPLANNING PP1-IT
3. Benefit	PP3-HU Experience with SME's
4. Benefit	PP10-DE Machine experience
5. Benefit	PP5-CZ Community building experience
6. Benefit	PP7-SI Product development experience
7. Benefit	
8. Benefit	

PP10-DE

... like to gain from the network FabLabNet:

	PP9-HR Event management experience
1. Benefit	PP2-AT Machine experience
2. Benefit	EUROPLANNING PP1-IT
3. Benefit	PP3-HU Product development experience
4. Benefit	PP6-PL Community building experience
5. Benefit	PP2-AT Educational experience
6. Benefit	PP3-HU Experience with SME's
7. Benefit	PP5-CZ Community building experience
8. Benefit	PP2-AT Connections to research institutes